

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03071 192307Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DRC-01 /049 W

----- 048556

R 192240Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2361

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3071

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, CA

SUBJECT: WASTEPAPER IMPORT REQUIREMENTS

REF: STATE 244027

1. CANADIAN IMPORTS OF WASTEPAPER IN FIRST NINE MONTHS OF 1973 TOTAL 109,000 SHORT TONS, VIRTUALLY ALL FROM U.S. EXPORTS IN SAME PERIOD 51,000 TONS, OF WHICH 42,000 TO U.S. ESTIMATED TOTAL NET IMPORTS FOR 1973 WILL BE ABOUT 120,000 TONS. ESTIMATED NET IMPORTS FROM U.S. WILL BE ABOUT 130,000 TONS. TOTAL NET IMPORTS HAVE INCREASED BY ABOUT 40 PERCENT ANNUALLY DURING 1970-1973.

2. OFFICIALS AT DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE (ITC) (R.W. ROSS AND D.T. ROY) WERE VERY RELUCTANT TO EXTRAPOLATE 1970-73 TRADE FIGURES TO ARRIVE AT PROJECTIONS OF NET IMPORTS FOR 1974 AND 1975, BUT WHEN PRESSED BY EMBOFF HAZARDED A 30 PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE IN BOTH YEARS AS A "REASONABLE GUESS."

3. THEY OBSERVED THAT MOST OF CANADIAN WASTEPAPER IMPORTS GO INTO THE MANUFACTURE OF BOXBOARD AND VARIOUS TYPES OF HARDBOARD AND NOT INTO NEWSPRINT, AS IN THE CASE OF THE U.S. FIRM GARDEN STATE PAPER. CANADIAN TRADE STATISTICS DO NOT BREAK OUT OLD NEWSPAPERS FROM TOTAL WASTEPAPER TRADE, BUT ITC OFFICIALS SUSPECTED WASTE NEWSPAPERS FROM THE U.S. DO NOT REPEAT NOT ACCOUNT FOR LARGE PORTION OF CANADIAN WASTEPAPER IMPORTS.

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03071 192307Z

4. ITC OFFICIALS OBSERVED FURTHER THAT CANADIAN PLANTS

PROCESSING WASTEPAPER INTO BOXBOARD, HARDBOARD, ETC. HAD FILLED OUT THEIR CAPACITY OVER 1970-73 PERIOD AND THERE IS NO NEW CAPACITY IN THE OFFING, ALTHOUGH A NEW PLANT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED FOR THE TORONTO AREA. THESE CONSIDERATIONS BROUGHT UP BY ROY AND ROSS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR EXPECTATIONS REGARDING INCREASE IN WASTEPAPER IMPORT REQUIREMENTS IN 1974-75.

5. THEY ALSO NOTED TRANSBORDER CHARACTER OF U.S.-CANADIAN WASTEPAPER TRADE, WHICH IS AFFECTED MORE THAN ANY OTHER FACTOR BY JUXTAPOSITION OF LARGE U.S. AND CANADIAN POPULATION CENTERS (AS GENERATORS OF WASTEPAPER INCLUDING NEWSPAPER). THEY ALSO STATED THAT IT IS NOT ECONOMIC TO TRANSPORT WASTEPAPER IN THIS TRADE MORE THAN 100 MILES.

SCHMIDT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973OTTAWA03071
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731216/aaaaalil.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 244027
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Sep-2001 by thomasv0>; APPROVED <02-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WASTEPAPER IMPORT REQUIREMENTS
TAGS: BGEN, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005